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COUNTRY Lebanon  
SUBJECT Arming by Moslems  
and Other Groups in Lebanon

DATE DISTR. 25 October 1978

NO. OF PAGES 2

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REPORT NO.

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1. Arming by Lebanese Moslems has greatly increased since the start of the Palestine war, because of the opportunity for influential Moslems to buy arms under the guise of getting them for volunteers and for the Army of Liberation. This arming continues actively with the knowledge of the Lebanese Government, and arms smuggling from Palestine into Lebanon, and from Turkey and Syria by both land and sea, is continuous. 25X1A
- Comment. The purchase of Turkish arms, reported in [redacted] bought with the knowledge of the Syrian President Shukri Quwatli and other authorities, is supplemented by a second report on the same subject from the same source, which states that Camille Sham'un, Maron Arab, an employee of the British Legation; and the Circassian prince, Ahmad Nami Bey, were closely involved in this arms deal. In addition to this negotiation, a source [redacted] reported that Muhammad Shaldir Baydun, with the knowledge of Camille Sham'un, was purchasing arms from villages along the Turkish border. A part of these arms was for the Army of Liberation and the rest was to be sold to individuals, particularly to Lebanese Moslems. ( ) 25X1X

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2. About 15 September, the Gendarmes and the Lebanese Army exchanged shots with a smuggling gang which traffics in arms along the Palestinian border. The arms were captured, and the leader of the band, Muhammad Shams, was detained. After a few days he was released, the arms returned to their owners, and instructions were issued that guards should not be on duty at certain specific hours during the night at specific border locations where smugglers could easily cross.
3. At the end of September the Sureté investigated an explosion in the home of Muhammad Da'ud, a fisherman, and Husayn Tabbarah, the chauffeur of Sami Sulh, and found three cases containing ten thousand sticks of dynamite, which they confiscated. Summons for the arrest of Da'ud and Tabbarah were prepared, but were later withdrawn, the investigation was closed, and the three cases were returned.

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Document No. [redacted]  
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Class. CHANGED TO: TS  
DDA Memo 4 Apr 77  
Auth: [redacted]  
Date: 050578 By: 025

Approved For Release 2001/11/23 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002000060010-6

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4. Tawil, an investigator of the Surete, reported to Ahmad Munaymini, Chief of the Investigation Section and Acting Chief of the Judicial Police, that a great number of arms had been found in a cave at Ras Beirut. Munaymini told Tawil to prepare a report on the matter and also advised the owners to remove the arms from the cave. After five days Munaymini sent Tawil and a number of police to confiscate the arms, which by that time had been removed.
5. The Shi'as in the Biqa', particularly Malham Qasim, his sons and followers, and members of the Ja'far, Shams, Yaghi, Dandash and Haydar families, are openly arming themselves. The Mukhtars of the villages of Doris and 'Ain Borkhai, near Ba'albek, went to Zahle to protest to the authorities about this arming. However, the authorities can do nothing, source states, as these families are followers of Sabri Hamadah, leader of the Chamber of Deputies, Ibrahim Haydar, Shi'a deputy from the Biqa', and of Raf'at Qaz'un, who are in control of this area.
6. The following elements also have arms:
  - a. The Hizb al-Nida al-Qawmi, the majority of whose members are Moslem, which has established two factories for the production of bombs for the Palestine war, and which hides a large quantity of these bombs for distribution to its own members when needed.
  - b. The Druze majority of the Hizb al-Qawmi al-Suri, which is well armed, and the Party has large quantities of arms and dynamite. Source further states that 90% of the Druzes in Lebanon are armed.
  - c. Phalangists, who still have the arms which the French gave them before their withdrawal.
  - d. The Christians in Zghorta, Ehdn, Bsharre, Deir al-Qamar, Zahleh and a number of Shuf villages, who, although they have sold most of their arms to persons buying them for use in Palestine, still have some left.

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